

## Industry fury over third lane coach ban

THE WHOLE of the bus industry erupted in fury at the beginning of February when the government confirmed that it is to introduce the threatened ban on coaches using the third lane of motorways. A ban has been discussed for some time

following the phased introduction of the 65mph coach speed limiter setting forced on the UK by Europe.

The argument put forward to justify the ban is that cars allowed to travel at 70mph in the outside lane would come into dangerous conflicts with coaches limited to 65mph – the fact that coaches in the second lane will be in even more dangerous conflict with HGVs which are to be limited to 56mph has been quietly ignored. The ban is to come into effect on 1 January next year and is for a “two-year trial period”, although it would be at least another nine months before any results were known so that the ban is likely to be in place for at least three years.

Since there is little or no evidence that coaches in the third lane have been responsible for, or involved in accidents, and there is absolutely no evidence that safety will be improved by this measure, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the ban has only been introduced to satisfy the car lobby.

The coach industry feels that this is yet another kick in the teeth by a government which says it wants to encourage public transport and then promptly introduces hefty increases in duty on fuel used for local bus services.

Transport Minister Stephen Norris' statement to a House of Commons Committee in early February that cars are a much more convenient form of transport was also thought by the industry to be a much truer indication of the way the present government views public transport. According to Stephen Norris he would not like to sit next to the other “dreadful” people that use buses and trains for commuting!

### A DOVE FOLLOWS THE TIGER



Photo courtesy of the Hull Daily Mail.

HARD on the heels of the first “Tiger Bus” featured in the last issue, has come a “Dove Bus” covered in advertisements supporting the Dove House Hospice in Hull.

Bristol VRT 750 is now plying the streets of Hull in a mainly white livery (although it keeps its red front to avoid passenger confusion), and our photograph shows Dove House chairman John Cumming at the wheel of the bus when it was launched at a ceremony at the Pearlman Restaurant in Hull during January.

## End of an era at Platform 6



FEBRUARY 25 saw the end of an era at East Yorkshire's booking office on Platform 6 at Hull coach station when both the longest-serving travel clerks retired on the same day.

Kay Markham was due to retire last August but because she and colleague Sheila Camille started with East Yorkshire on exactly the same day 34 years ago, and have worked together ever since, Kay asked to stay on until Sheila's retirement date so both could leave on the same day.

Both Sheila and Kay have spent their entire periods of employment at East Yorkshire in the Hull coach station booking office, both starting as seasonal clerks and later becoming permanent, Kay in 1964, and Sheila in 1969. Older staff will no doubt remember that for many years their office was the “temporary” wooden building which was erected shortly after the war but which lasted until 1987.

Sheila was born in Limerick in Eire, and before becoming a member of the permanent East Yorkshire staff used to work for a jewellers in Hull city centre during the winter months. Kay joined East Yorkshire from the RAF and became office supervisor in 1988. The fact that they will be missed by the hundreds of regular customers they have served for so long was proved by the many cards and gifts which they received in the days leading up to their retirement.

Kay Markham intends to keep busy with some voluntary work at Beverley Westwood Hospital. Sheila Camille also intends to keep active but has not yet made any firm decision about what to do.

Our photograph shows Sheila (at the back) and Kay in a typical newspaper pose which appeared in an article in the Hull Daily Mail at the end of February.

# Betty Sherwood retires after 48 years

AS reported in the Long Service Awards feature in the last issue of Travel Telegraph, East Yorkshire traffic clerk Betty Sherwood retired just before Christmas after a total of 48 years with the company, 35 of them continuous.

At a short ceremony in East Yorkshire's head office many of her colleagues gathered to see joint managing director Godfrey Burley present Betty with a number of gifts on their behalf. Our photograph shows Betty at the presentation – not with a new "punk" hairstyle but a tinsel tiara!



## Safe drivers at Finglands



FINGLANDS annual Christmas party was this year held at the Gateway Hotel, East Didsbury on Sunday 18 December. It proved to be a great success and was also used by Finglands directors as the ideal opportunity to present the 1993 ROSCO Safe Driving Award certificates.

Our photograph shows, back row, left to right, drivers Roy Cramp, Rene Hofman, Ron Wadsworth, managing director Graeme Rayner, drivers Joe Ryan, John O'Brien, John Campion and Kevin Molloy. Front row, left to right are drivers Jim Grimes, Frank Lomas, Chris Gordon and Alan Shaw.

## Budget not quite so bad!

IN THE last issue, due to an undetected error at the printers, we reported that the additional fuel duty imposed in last November's Budget would cost the Group £2m in a full year!

One nought does make all the difference however, because the true figure should have been £200,000. However, this was bad enough, particularly when after the last issue went to press the Chancellor announced a further lp on the price of diesel fuel as part of the package of measures to replace the additional revenue lost when proposals to add additional VAT to heating fuel were overthrown in Parliament.

This means that the total cost to the Group in a full year will now be around £260,000.

### Sponsored Cars

GIVEN the increasing trend for sports stars and the like to be provided with cars sponsored by local firms, joint managing director Peter Shipp was intrigued recently to follow a car driven by an attractive young lady and which had a notice on the back bumper "Sponsored by Daddy"!

# . . . Eric Smith notches up 50 years

BODYSHOP superintendent Eric Smith became one of the last people to achieve 50 years service when he reached this milestone on Monday 16 January. Eric started as an apprentice tinsmith at Anlaby Common in 1945 and has been in charge of East Yorkshire's bodyshop for the last 20 years.

Eric is due to retire early next January by which time he will have achieved almost 51 years service.

## . . . and Harold Walton retires after 40 years



Chief Engineer Gordon Jones hands Harold one of his gifts.

SCARBOROUGH depot engineering manager Harold Walton has just retired after over 40 years in the bus industry. He originally worked for United Automobile Services and transferred to Scarborough & District when EYMS Group took over the Scarborough area operations from United in 1986 so he has spent his entire career at Scarborough.

He left the company on Friday 10 March after attending a retirement function organised by his colleagues at West Ayton two days earlier.

A keen bowls player, Harold was presented with a bowls bag and a camera outfit, together with a specially made "engineering plaque" with name badges to remind him of some of the vehicles he has worked on over the years. It is a month of celebrations for Harold and his wife Win, because a fortnight after his retirement they celebrated their Ruby wedding.

# Reorganisation brings Management changes

SUNDAY 26 February saw further changes to parts of the Hull bus service network, introduced following the Stagecoach acquisition of KHCT at the end of last year.

Some East Yorkshire services, especially in the Bransholme area, were reduced with KHCT taking over some of the car workings, although East Yorkshire now has the full daytime operation on the outer circle services 23/24.

Crew-operation with Routemasters came to an end on the North Hull services 3, 4 and 5 with conventional one-man buses substituted by East Yorkshire on these routes, although Routemasters remain on East Hull route 56/56A and ten Routemasters have been retained for this purpose.

In North Hull Routemasters were just too successful because their speed of operation was such that they were catching up with the

previous KHCT bus on these routes which are now jointly-operated between the two companies.

Despite these cuts, which took about 12 buses out of the East Yorkshire fleet at Hedon Road, East Yorkshire still has a much larger operation in Hull than it did up to the summer of 1992, before the start of the intense competition between EYMS and KHCT. East Yorkshire management has also been pleased to report that the changes resulted in only twelve conductor redundancies with no drivers having to leave the company. A substantial operation remains at Hedon Road which ensures the future of that depot for the foreseeable future.

## Depot appointments

IAN HENDERSON has been appointed district manager-north and will be responsible for operations at Scarborough, Pickering and Primrose Valley, and Josie Graham has been appointed supervisor at Easington depot. Bert Rhodes, previously senior revenue protection officer has been appointed customer service manager and will be responsible for all inspectorate staff, the service quality team, the East Yorkshire travel office on Platform 6 at Hull coach station, and the head office telephone enquiry staff.

Gillian Scott who has been responsible for much of the coaching activity at Hedon Road and Easington, in conjunction with Josie Graham and Kath Johnson, has been appointed East Yorkshire coaching manager, whilst former trainee Clare Harrison has been appointed customer liaison officer to assist Bert Rhodes in his responsibilities described above.

The other trainee, Lisa Grant has become management information analyst, a new post designed to ensure best use is made of all the information now available from new technology.

Tony Evison has been appointed staffing detailer at Hedon Road, and Alan Jessop,

previously a member of the Hull telephone enquiry team and often heard on the Anlaby Road switchboard, has become Anlaby Road depot clerk.

As soon as possible a commercial manager and three area engineers will be appointed for the enlarged East Yorkshire company, together with a central workshops manager who will be responsible for those functions at Anlaby Road, such as the paintshop and the PSV preparation area, which serve the entire company rather than just the depot.

Finally, technical assistant Ian Watson has also left the Group, but this is mainly for personal reasons and we understand that he has returned to his native North East.

## Office cutbacks

ACTION has also been taken to make further significant reductions in overhead and management costs throughout the company so as to place EYMS in the best possible position to cope in future just in case the position in Hull or Scarborough becomes destabilised, although this is now thought less likely than previously.

Of key importance however, is to get the Group returned to an acceptable level of profitability as soon as possible in order that substantial investment in new vehicles can take place, and in any case prudent management dictates that overhead costs should be kept to an absolute minimum.

The result has been the departure of several managers and other staff to whom the directors have expressed their thanks for service to the company and their best wishes for the future.

General manager-north Eric Boyes and company engineer Ken Cartwright have left to pursue other interests, whilst Primrose Valley manager Eddie Jones, Anlaby Road unit shop manager Tony Holmes and service quality co-ordinator Colin Brumhead have opted to take redundancy, as have Anlaby Road cleaning supervisor Harry Holderson, electrician supervisor Charlie Dunn, and administration clerk Elaine Ellis.

At Scarborough, Ann Chew and Lisa Vickers have taken redundancy, and at Pickering Brian Wardle's title has changed to depot supervisor.

Tony Fieldsend has been appointed traffic manager with responsibilities throughout the enlarged East Yorkshire which now includes Primrose Valley and Scarborough & District, whilst Gordon Jones has been appointed chief engineer for the company although he keeps many of his Group engineering responsibilities.

## National Express buys second airport

NATIONAL EXPRESS, now a public company, announced at the beginning of February that it had bought Bournemouth Airport for £7.13m.

National Express already owns East Midland Airport which it bought a couple of years ago, and has apparently declared an interest in Birmingham and Cardiff Airports if and when they come on the market.

## Graham Buttler injured in car accident

GRAHAM BUTTLER East Yorkshire's district manager-central, based at Driffield, suffered a fractured leg in a serious car crash near Driffield on 1 February.

His wife Helen was also in the car and suffered a fractured sternum, whilst drivers and passengers in the other two cars involved received less serious injuries.

It is understood that Mr and Mrs Buttler were travelling along the A166 at Haisthorpe, with another car

travelling in the opposite direction when a third car emerged from a side road.

Graham Buttler will be away from work for several weeks as a result of his injuries, and he and Helen are both wished a speedy recovery.

# The Little Red Bus...

By Ann Spelman

IN Issue 25, I wrote a story on page 4 headed "Ann Spelman visits Hedon Road and Easington". The story continues...

At the bottom of the page I stated "There in the garage is a very small bus made by Mr. Graham with the staircase coming up the back painted red – and it goes!".

In November I got a telephone call from a Mr. Ron Bryant of Withernsea who said words to the effect that Mr. Graham didn't build the bus and the gentleman who had built it was a friend of his. Great thought I, people must be reading Travel Telegraph – I wrote to him before Christmas and said I would go to see them both early in the new Year.

So... on Wednesday 18 January 9.00 am Ray Hill, District Manager East picked me

up from home and off I set on my Sherlock Holmes trip to sort out the little red bus.

It was a beautiful day. After arriving at Withernsea one of the drivers from the Depot (Terry Dellbridge) took me to meet Ron Bryant. Ron is known locally as "The poor man's Solicitor" and if people have a problem they knock at his door and he sorts it out!

Ron knows an awful lot about East Yorkshire and last year went on an EYT



Photo kindly loaned by Alan Nicholson.

trip, to the Isle of Wight I believe, and you will see many familiar faces on the photograph loaned to me by Ron.

Off we went from No. 80 to No. 48 Kirkfield Road where Terry and I together with Ron were welcomed by Joan and Alan Nicholson. What a pleasure it was to meet them. We were made most welcome with coffee and biscuits and we talked – Alan had built the little bus and Tom Graham had bought it from him many years ago. Joan and Alan's nephew, Barry Patterson works for East Yorkshire at Withernsea.

Alan made the bus in 1970 especially to raise money for charity – his dog used to sit in the front seat. Alan was a fitter by trade and still makes many machines from a car, to a bus, to a motorcycle. You name it and he has built it. He also worked for a while for East Yorkshire as fitter and driver. Joan served as a Warden and was awarded a Certificate for 30 years service by the local Council.

*On the left is an article which appeared in the Staff News at that time.*

It was such a pleasure meeting them both and we were shown the various bikes he is building at the moment, his workshops (he has just taken over Joan's summer house), lathes etc., where he makes all the parts.

I know this was meant to be a short story but I am sure you will forgive me.

We then went back to Withernsea Depot and off to Easington to see Tom Graham at Connor & Graham. It was good to see them all and guess what...it was my mistake !!!

I had assumed Tom had made the bus but he confirmed the true story. It has a new engine now and is still used to raise money for charity.

At least my mistake gave me the pleasure of meeting Joan and Alan, Ron Bryan, Withernsea drivers and Ray Hill not to mention the fact that I could see Tom Graham again so soon so I hope you think my detective work actually worked!!!

My grateful thanks to Ray and Terry for their help. I have come to the conclusion that everyone in Withernsea knows everyone else. For Terry it was like going home – he knew everyone and if you live in Withernsea and want something sorting out – get in touch with Ron Bryant.



Familiar faces on the Isle of Wight trip?

## EYMS car builder

WHAT surely must be a most unusual achievement has been carried out by Driver Nicholson of Withernsea Depot and we think we could not do better than to reproduce a report which recently appeared in the Withernsea Weekly Gazette. We also have pleasure in producing a photograph of the car in question. "People in Withernsea who have seen the small, smart grey and red saloon car nipping about the town may have wondered what make it is, and some on closer inspection will have seen the word "Nick" on the front of the bonnet."

The car is in fact a home made one and has been built in the back garden of Alan Nicholson of 24 Owthorne Walk, who is the sole designer and manufacturer. Starting with an old 1934 Austin 7 engine some eight months ago, he has constructed the chassis and coachwork round it,

and has made a very serviceable vehicle looking very much like a miniature of the 1954 Vauxhall. At present it is fitted with transverse suspension, but Alan informs us that this is only temporary and is to be substituted by independent springs as soon as possible. There is an excellent clear view from the driving position with the bonnet sloping downwards.

Mr. Nicholson, who is a bus driver on the EYMS, has built three other vehicles the first being a tractor, which he knocked together out of bits and pieces in the desert during the war. It was used extensively for a particular job and was a curiosity to all who visited his unit. He has built cars since the war, making the parts and using spares, and he says the most expensive part of the venture is purchasing the licence and insurance. His car cost a good deal less to make".



# Obituary

YET again we regret to have to report the deaths of some former employees.

**Harold Lyon** would have been 80 years old in October but unfortunately died on 15 January. He used to be a clerk in the engineering department when it was located at Anlaby Common in Hull and served the company well for just over 49 years. Even though he had been retired for almost 15 years, he is still remembered by many of his former colleagues and used to meet them at the Annual Dinners of the "25" Association, of which he had been a member since 1957.

Driffield depot has lost yet another of its former drivers with the death of **Albert Foster** on 3 February. He was a bus driver at Driffield until his formal retirement but then took up cleaning duties at the depot.

**Eric Swann** who died on 5 January was a bus driver in the Pocklington area for 50 years, having originally been with the Everingham Brothers operation. He transferred to East Yorkshire when Everingham's were taken over.

Although he had been retired for over 20 years, Eric still maintained an interest in the company and was an ever-present member at the "25" Association Annual Dinners until recently prevented by ill health.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to all their families as we acknowledge the sad loss of yet more people who served the company loyally and well for many long years.

## Vandalism costs £100,000

UNFORTUNATELY vandalism on the Group's buses (and to a lesser extent at its properties) seems to be on the increase, and last year the cost of repairing damage topped £100,000.

Well over half that total comes from repairing damaged seats, whilst over £13,000 had to be spent replacing broken windows. The latter problem is particularly alarming since it can often be dangerous as well as costly. Anything members of staff can do to identify and report vandals will be very welcome since this is a cost that the Group can very well do without. If one adds to the total the hidden "costs" of journeys which have to be cancelled or delayed because of vehicle damage, the overall effect is probably much greater.

One particular problem which has certainly been increasing during the last couple of years is the regular theft of fire extinguishers and tax discs from buses parked overnight, especially at Anlaby Road, although tax and 'O' licence disks were stolen from several minibuses at Beverley in March after thieves cut a hole in the fence.

# Wilberfoss - the final chapter

AFTER many months of postponements, the lorry driver who was involved in the Wilberfoss fatal bus crash appeared before Driffield Magistrates in December on a charge of driving without due care and attention. The crash, in September 1993, killed Pocklington driver Dennis Ellis and schoolgirl Helen Steele.

It is understood that the Stipendiary Magistrate Mr Neville White apologised to people in the public gallery for not being able to pass a heavier sentence. He said, "I know a lot of you have lost people close to you but this is the maximum penalty I can give", as he fined the lorry driver £300 and banned him from driving for seven years.

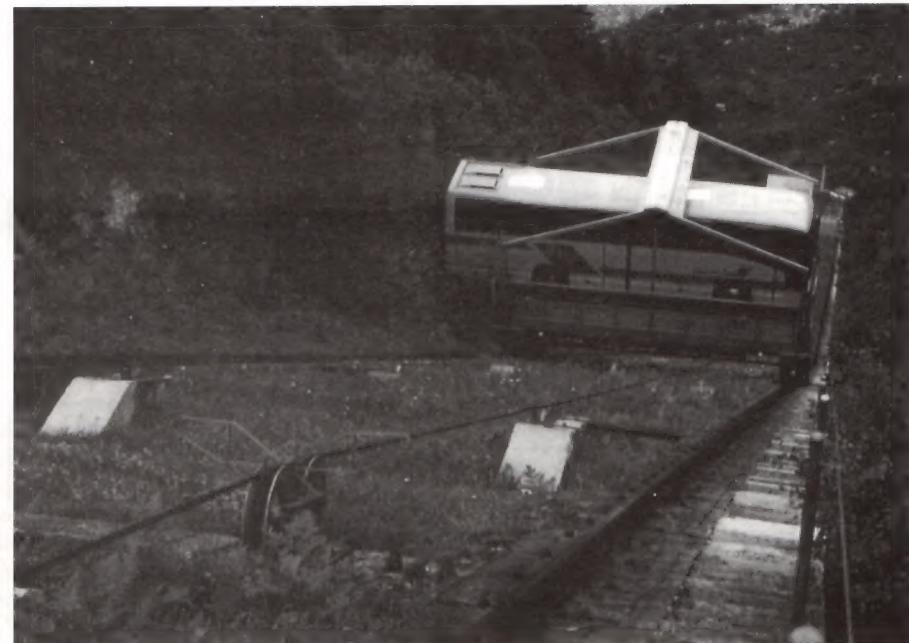
The driver had admitted driving more than 10mph over the 40mph speed limit and claimed he had been forced to slam on his brakes because of a driver cutting in front of him causing his lorry to jack-knife.

However, the Magistrate did not accept this argument and totally exonerated the lady car driver concerned.

The court had heard that charges against the trailer owners, based in Preston, Lancs, of using a trailer with defective brakes, had been dropped.

During the hearing it was acknowledged that the lorry driver had suffered mentally and physically since the accident and it was reported to be unlikely that he will ever drive a lorry again.

## Austrian bus gets a lift



TRAVEL TELEGRAPH readers may be fascinated to see this photograph of a Mercedes 0.404 coach of the Austrian Post Office travelling sideways up a mountain!

For 13 years Mercedes 0.303 coaches provided a shuttle service for the 200,000 tourists who visit the Hydro Power Stations in Kaprun valley each year, but the introduction of the 0.404 model nearly put paid to the whole operation.

A mere 16cm longer than its predecessor, the 0.404 is an extremely tight fit on the Larchwant cable railway which is the only way of transporting heavy loads up the mountain, so putting the coach on the lift calls for pinpoint accuracy.

The front end of the coach is positioned exactly with the aid of a template and the rear end, which protrudes over the side of the metal cage, makes an effective lawnmower as it passes up the slopes. Apparently whole sections of rock had to be broken off and some of the supporting walls moved to be able to get coaches onto the lift which gets to gradients of 1 in 1.2, and is certainly one of the largest of its kind in Europe.

The photo and the accompanying article were first noticed in the Mercedes Benz magazine which is regularly received at EYMS, and we are most grateful to Mercedes Benz of Stuttgart who kindly supplied a copy of the photograph and gave permission for these extracts from the article.

# WORDSEARCH

by Ray Nicholson

## YOUR CHANCE TO WIN £50

The winner of the Christmas wordsearch is **Elaine Ellis**. Elaine was until recently administration clerk in East Yorkshire's Head Office but has now left the company so her prize has been sent to her.

The answer to the question "Reading from left to right line by line using all the letters remaining spell out our message and question" was:

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. What did the fifth day of Christmas bring my true love? **ANSWER: Five Gold Rings.** Now for the new quiz:

## PURE DETECTIVE WORK



Find these fictional detectives hidden in the word-square above.

THE BILL

CAGNEY AND LACY

CANNON

CHARLIE CHAN

CHARLIES ANGELS

COLUMBO

JESSICA FLETCHER

FROST

SHERLOCK HOLMES

INSPECTOR CLOUSEAU

INSPECTOR MORSE

MAGNUM

MISS MARPLE

HERCULE POIROT

ROCKFORD

SAM SPADE

SHOESTRING

THE SWEENEY

TAGGART

DICK TRACY

WEXFORD

QUESTION: Name John Thaw and Dennis Waterman's characters from *The Sweeney*. Send your completed grid and answer to Travel Telegraph (c/o Hilary Fawcett, Anlaby Road).

Answer: .....

Name .....

Department .....

There is no **KEYWORD** or **WORD-WISE** competition in this issue but the winner of the Christmas Keyword, winning £25 was driver **Bruce Allman** of Driffield.

## Brenda Dyke's lament

EAST YORKSHIRE managing director Robin Knight recently received a letter and poem from Mrs Brenda Dyke of Hull, who is apparently a regular passenger from Hessle on the company's Sunday Mystery Trips on which she says she has made some good friends.

Her letter says that East Yorkshire's drivers are very pleasant men and always have a cheery word. Apparently one in particular makes her day because if she has to run for the bus, when she says thanks for waiting, he says that he always waits for good-looking women like her! Mrs Dyke is a pensioner and, although she realises he probably "says that to all the girls" it still makes her feel happy as she gets on the bus.

Her poem is a mixture of complaint and praise but we are happy to reproduce it for Travel Telegraph readers.

*Here I am alone and blue  
Thinking now what shall I do  
I'll go out and have some fun  
I'm always home and having none*

*Maybe I'll take a little walk  
Across the fields and look at the Humber  
All I see are lorries and men  
Getting rid of piles of lumber*

*I'll go in town and look at the shops  
So I go upstairs on a 'no smoking' bus  
Yes, you've guessed it, the air's thick with  
smoke  
When I point to the signs I'm told don't make  
a fuss*

*I think I'll go and see a movie  
Why do they build them miles away?  
When I've ran through six roads like racing  
tracks  
I'm nearly having a heart attack*

*I don't drink beer but I can have a coke  
Maybe have a laugh and talk  
In a pub or club it's thick with smoke  
Breathing that in all night's no joke*

*Roll on Sundays when I go on my day trips  
And a very long ride to the sea  
Have some good fish and chips and a walk  
on the beach  
And thanks to EAST YORKSHIRE BUSES  
it's only £2 each*

## Check your diary!

THIS YEAR May Day Bank Holiday in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will be on the second Monday in May instead of the first Monday as usual. This is to allow the Bank Holiday to coincide with the 50th anniversary of VE Day which occurs on 8th May.

However this change was announced after some diaries had gone to print so check yours now! EYMS Group will be operating Bank Holiday arrangements on the correct day — Monday 8th May!

# Coaches to cost almost £1/2 m

THE GROUP has recently placed orders for three luxury coaches, two for East Yorkshire and one for Finglands, which at around £150,000 each, will cost the company almost £1/2m.

Two of the coaches are replacements for the two oldest National Express coaches based at Anlaby Road, and for the first time these will be on Scania chassis with Van Hool bodies to National Express non-Rapide specification. These will then be evaluated alongside the more common Volvo/Plaxton Expressliner coaches of which 11 examples are now in the East Yorkshire National Express fleet.

The third coach will also introduce a new vehicle manufacturer's product into the EYMS fleet - this will be a Volvo B10M with a Berkhof Excellence coach body. This will be to full luxury specification for use at Finglands as the regular team coach for Manchester City, on which work it will replace the Mercedes coach currently used, although the latter will remain in the fleet.

For the first time all three coaches will also feature seatbelts throughout, whilst the Finglands coach will have a number of "extras" including a microwave oven required for the team's use.

As reported in Travel Telegraph when EYMS bought Finglands in the Spring of 1992, that company has provided the Manchester City team coach for over 60 years and it is thought that the Volvo/Berkhof should make an excellent job of continuing the tradition.

## Cigarette adverts banned

CIGARETTE advertisements were being removed from all EYMS Group buses by the end of December because of a new ruling which bans the promotion or advertising of cigarettes in the vicinity of schools.

Although no doubt the legislation was designed to deal with adverts on static sites, it also means that buses can no longer carry cigarette advertising if they are likely to pass schools during their day's work.

Since most buses actually serve schools, or at least pass close to them on many occasions during their working life, it has meant adverts having to be removed from all buses.

Fortunately for EYMS cigarette advertising has not formed a major part of advertising revenue during the last few years so the financial effect will be fairly small.

# TAVR Service Cadets

EYMS has received details of the three service cadet schemes which the TAVR Association supports, but which need more adult volunteers in order to continue.

The Sea Cadet Corps, Army Cadet Force and the Air Training Corps are organised into about 180 community-based units which are sponsored, usually by a Reserve Forces unit. Already there are over 7,000 cadets between the ages of 13 and 18 in Yorkshire and Humberside, learning life skills and how to be good citizens. Whilst some cadets do go on to join the Armed Forces or civilian emergency services, 90% go on into civilian careers.

Cadets in all three organisations learn communication and many other skills during the challenging and adventurous training which young people need to gain self-confidence.

They have the chance to participate in sports of all kinds, and in 1995 there is the chance to take part in camps in India, Canada, Germany and Cyprus, whilst a major trekking expedition is planned in the Himalayas.

Anyone interested in becoming an officer or adult instructor should contact Lt. Col. Tony Hemesley of the TAVR at York (01904) 623081.



## Garden Gnomes

By Ann Spelman, based on an article by Graeme Donald.

I'D LIKE to tell you my story about Garden Gnomes. I have always been a very keen Gardener (being a Farmer's daughter and having green fingers) but I always hated Garden Gnomes and seeing them in people's gardens.

Well, about three years ago my son and his then girlfriend (now his wife) went out for the day and came back home with this huge box as a present for me. It took me ages to unwrap and imagine my horror when I saw this larger than life Garden Gnome. We laughed so much and I might add this Garden Gnome has pride of place with many more people have bought me over the years. Christopher always said it was worth buying it just to see my face when I unwrapped it.

However, when reading my newspaper last Saturday morning there was an article about how Garden Gnomes came about so thought I would share it with you - just in case you have the same feelings as myself.

Headed "The Gnome". Sir Charles Isham of Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire, was what might be described in modern terms as a nutter. A keen and talented gardener, he liked to talk to his plants. But one day a conifer answered back. In 1843, Isham had completed a forest of bonsai trees, but he felt something was missing. Then he claimed one of the trees gave him the answer, which was to change the face of gardening for ever. He shot off to Nuremberg in Germany, and returned with an army of terracotta gnomes. Other stately gardens picked up the fashion and, as these estates were opened to the public suburban gardeners liked the idea and scrimped and saved to buy gnomes at

exorbitant prices.

In the Thirties, fibreglass moulding revolutionised gnome production and costs plummeted - Nuremberg originals are now rare and very valuable. Gnome production exploded in the Fifties with the advent of plastic moulding. In the Eighties one unfortunate gardener became the first woman in history to be killed by a gnome. She stood back to admire her herbaceous border and was stabbed in the calf by her gnome's fishing rod. She died of tetanus three days later.

Gnomes were banned by the Chelsea Flower Show, but in 1993 the last surviving 6in Lampert original was displayed there - it's insured for £1.25 million.

And the moral of this story is - don't buy a gnome with a fishing rod!!

## Pocklington Depot Christmas night out

THE social club at Pocklington organised another Christmas night out at the Manor House, Fridaythorpe, just before the holiday.

Forty or so staff and guests had a good night out, which was enjoyed by all. Guest speaker was Steve Campbell of Pocklington who gave an excellent speech.



## YOUR STARS FOR MARCH



**ARIES:** In March emotions are running high. Have you bitten off more than you can chew in relation to a personal or professional project? You need to know why a certain individual is behaving as they are and how much will be revealed. The combined influence of the Sun, Jupiter and Saturn on the 5/6th should make you all the more determined to take up a tempting new offer which has all the potential of transforming your life. Just remember you are never asked to do more than you are able without being given the strength and ability to do it.



**TAURUS:** It seems you have been here before! The combined influence of the Sun and Jupiter on the 5th may knock the stuffing out of a business venture. However, close alignment between the Sun and Saturn on the 6th will open up a whole new avenue of possibilities so don't ignore the opportunities on offer. Allow your instincts to lead the way and all will be revealed on the 21st.



**GEMINI:** The Sun is passing over the midheaven point of your Solar chart so you can afford to set your sights higher. The potent influence of JUPITER on the 5th and SATURN on the 6th will present you with a dilemma in relation to principles and priorities. By the end of the month you should have convinced yourself that it is not what you are but who you are that matters.



**CANCER:** Do not try to run away from yourself. Before attempting to travel in search of excitement you must first concentrate on reversing the effects of recent upheavals which seem to have undermined your confidence. Only when everything has its proper place in our minds are we able to face the world on equal terms.



**LEO:** The Sun, your ruler, is passing through the money angles of your solar chart. It looks as if your money matters are about to be transformed in a way that would have looked impossible

twelve months ago. You will have hurdles to overcome before you hit the Jackpot but what occurs around the time of the Full Moon on the 17th will help you sort it out.



**VIRGO:** There are occasions this month when situations take on a life of their own. Stimulating aspects linking the Sun in Pisces with the mighty Jupiter on the 5th and Saturn on the 6th are liable to make you wonder what you did to incite such intensity. All indications are it's a passing phase and unless you are convinced that you can win an all-out victory, you would be better to remain on the sidelines.



**LIBRA:** Is your conscience getting the better of you? Not everyone shares your commitment to the truth nor so determined to see justice done. However, a splendid aspect on the 21st will give you a little more leeway to spell out your feelings. You tend to set yourself high standards in most areas of your life but that does not mean it is always possible to achieve them.



**SCORPIO:** The powerful planets Jupiter and Saturn both form stimulating aspects to the Sun in the first week of March. Concentrate on your personal happiness and fulfilment. However, you can indulge in a certain amount of manoeuvring around the 21st provided you are in possession of all the facts and you really do have as much right to express your views as anyone else.



**SAGITTARIUS:** A stunning aspect between fiery Mars and Jupiter on the 9th will remind you that life is a gift, not a burden and that every challenge is there for a reason. After the Sun enters Aries on the 21st you will be able to cut down on your workload and spend more time on your own enjoyment.



**CAPRICORN:** Don't bury your true feelings and emotions. If you are typical of your birth sign it is hardly surprising that you are feeling unsettled and irritable. After Pluto turns retrograde on

the 4th you will find it harder to remain detached and objective about yourself and your nearest and dearest. Not until the 21st when the Sun is supported by Pluto will you start having faith in yourself once more.



**AQUARIUS:** Money matters are now highlighted so cast a critical eye over financial, property or business interests. You need to accept that you have many roles to play in your life and many rivers to cross before you can truly say that you have done justice to your commitments and responsibilities. The period around the 6th, 9th and 21st should prove to be pools of tranquillity in a turbulent sea.



**PISCES:** The New Moon in your sign on the 1st will enable you to discard all that is overrated or outdated. The Sun in Pisces should give you a firmer grasp on the tiller of your life. The combined influence of the Sun and Pluto on the 21st should certainly afford you the opportunity to capitalize on your abilities.



## Phoneday means buses change colour!

AS MOST EYMS Group stationery and publicity needs changing to accommodate the new telephone codes and numbers which come into effect on 'Phoneday', Sunday 16th April, the opportunity has been taken to design completely new stationery for the East Yorkshire company.

In conjunction with this, by the time this issue appears in print, Leyland Olympian 555 will have appeared in a revised livery of darker red and cream, and sporting the new East Yorkshire logo, similar to the one which will soon start to appear on letterheads and other stationery.

If the experimental colourscheme on this bus is approved, all future repaints will be in the new colours which are designed to present a classic but brighter image.



## **Ray Hill – District Manager East**



**RAY HILL** has recently been appointed District Manager East and seems to be really enjoying his new post.

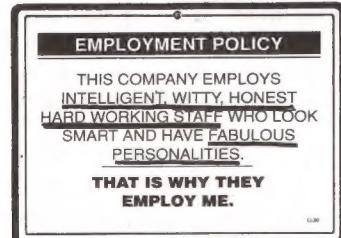
On 18th January I met Ray when he escorted me on my investigations! (sounds very spooky doesn't it).

He took over the post of District Manager East, in charge of Hornsea and Withernsea, on 15 December last year.

Ray is married to Tracey and they have four children—Richard 10, David 7, Michelle 6 and Carl 20 months. He joined East Yorkshire in May 1982 as a driver at Anlaby Road. In 1992 he became a customer service supervisor, working at Hedon Road and then Hornsea. He also spent nine months as a coach inspector until he took up his present position.

Ray is still a DIY man at home but many of his other interests such as football and squash cannot be fitted in with his work schedule now. When he was working shifts this was much easier, so to relax he is an avid chess player while he still does his DIY at weekends.

I think even this spare time will be rationed when the season starts in earnest in a couple of months time but he does have Lyn Cleary at Hornsea and Andrea Finnegan at Withernsea on hand to help him (doesn't look a bit like her photograph!). She has a notice which has pride of place over her desk—reproduced here! Thought you would like it. Wonder why she didn't underline "who looks smart"!!!



Thank you Ray and all the staff for making me so welcome and I look forward to seeing you again. Don't forget, you know where to send your stories and ideas—Hilary Fawcett, Anlaby Road and she will pass these to me.  
*Ann Spelman*

## **Beverley Bus Station improvements**

BEVERLEY Borough Council is to spend £50,000 on a scheme to improve Beverley bus station which the Council was told is in an appalling state because of vandalism.

The Council accepts that the bus station is very busy and that in its present state it gives a bad impression, especially to tourists.

The work is due to be carried out in the next few months and will include moving the waiting room to a more public area near the entrance to the bus station.

It is reported that an attendant is also to be employed for the public toilets in the station.

## **Less smoke — more injectors**

IN A move designed to help EYMS companies meet increasingly stringent exhaust emission standards, fuel injectors on all Group buses and coaches will now be changed annually during PSV test preparation, regardless of their condition.

Previously injectors have been changed only when this becomes necessary, and very often the need for change is evident because the bus starts to emit black smoke.

In today's environmental climate this is no longer acceptable but, although there will be some additional costs, it is expected that by keeping injectors in peak condition fuel consumption and general reliability will both improve.

## **Buses and coaches still safest — Official**

OF THE 306,000 people killed or injured on Great Britain's roads in 1993, less than 5% were in accidents involving coaches or buses, according to recent government statistics.

The Department of Transport has issued a fact sheet which confirms that PSVs were involved in 10,700 road accidents involving injury or death. The total of 153 deaths, 1,600 serious injuries and 13,000 slight injuries attributable to PSV accidents confirm coach and bus travel as still being the safest form of passenger road transport.

Despite some high profile PSV accidents in the last 18 months, there has been a large reduction in fatalities and injuries in road accidents involving PSVs during the last 15 years.

## **Father Christmas drives the Bus!**



Photograph courtesy of the Holderness Gazette.

**PETER BRIGGS** is a driver at Withernsea and you can see Peter playing Father Christmas in this picture kindly loaned by the Holderness Gazette. This took place in Christmas week when Father Christmas gave sweets to his passengers. Peter said he really enjoyed playing this role and some passengers brought sweets to add to his collection for others to enjoy. Isn't this what Christmas is all about? Peter Adamson of B.B.C. Radio Humberside talked to Santa about his exploits. The drivers are already planning for next Christmas.

## **Senior citizens deal for National Express**

AT THE beginning of the New Year National Express gave a big boost to its passenger carrying by offering an "anywhere to anywhere" return journey for just £4.99 to holders of its senior discount coach card.

The special promotion ran between 9 January and 16 February, and passengers were reported to be making some very long journeys to get their money's worth! Normally the discount card offers around 30% off the standard fare, but for obvious reasons National Express wanted to boost traffic during the quietest two months of the year.

Typical savings from East Yorkshire's area include an amazing £34.01 off a trip to London and back, and as well as extra passengers during the promotion period, National Express hoped to encourage existing cardholders to renew and more new cardholders to be recruited.

## Qualification for Jeanette Driscoll



**CONGRATULATIONS** to East Yorkshire's accountant Jeanette Driscoll who recently qualified as a Certified Accountant. This followed months of intensive study which had to be undertaken whilst Jeanette carried out her normal duties.

Jeanette originally obtained a Diploma in Business Studies which enabled her to become a student of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, and her recent exam success makes her a graduate member of the Association.

To get the qualification Jeanette had to pass no less than 14 separate examinations as well as proving experience in the various fields of accountancy.

## Congratulations Charlie!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Charlie Bullock who celebrated his 80th birthday on Tuesday 14 March. Charlie is famous as the former United employee who will be carried to his cremation on the back of the former United recovery wagon which he owns. He planned his funeral down to the last detail several years ago and even has in store a specially prepared destination blindfold to drape his coffin!

Charlie still looks after parking at Scarborough's Westwood coach park and at Harold Walton's retirement function he looked very fit and well so hopefully his special "hearse" will not be needed for quite some time yet.

## Retired staff outing

AROUND 80 retired staff and their wives or husbands enjoyed another successful Christmas outing, this time to a new venue, the Millstones Restaurant just outside Harrogate, on Thursday 5th January.

Three coaches converged on the restaurant and the East Yorkshire group found themselves in company with a group from Nestle's at Huddersfield, and both parties thoroughly enjoyed an excellent lunch followed by entertainment and dancing until afternoon tea and mince pies were served at around 4pm.

Retired employees may like to note the date for the next outing – this will be on Friday 26 May and will again be to the Millstones Restaurant where an Old Time Music Hall is to be presented.

*Travel Telegraph editor Ann Spelman travelled with one of the coaches on the January outing and this is her report:*

### The Magical Mystery Tour...

IT WAS Thursday – it was raining and cold – and there was no Waiting Room at the bus station. (question "where has it gone" from many people). But...along came the coach, wonderfully warm and inviting, and Colin Brumhead to see us on our way.

For me it was like a mystery tour because I didn't know where I was going or what was happening.

We travelled through Harrogate, past Knaresborough to the MILLSTONES RESTAURANT, Kettlesey Head, Skipton Road, Harrogate. There were three coaches descending upon the restaurant at once, one from Withernsea, Hull and Beverley, one from Elloughton Brough and South Cave and the other from Market Weighton, Pocklington, Hornsea, Bridlington and Driffield, all to have lunch and be entertained.

To see familiar faces was really great – Charlie Bennett was there looking so much better after his illness – and not only the familiar but faces I hadn't seen before.

Jean Barnett not only made sure we were all present and correct but organised everyone and everything throughout. It wasn't until we were on the coach coming home that she relaxed and lo and behold the next trip was already being suggested and discussed and memo being written!

Godfrey and Helen Burley, Sue and Peter Shipp and Robin Knight joined us – it was great to meet both Mrs. Shipp and Mrs. Burley – I had written about them often but never actually met them. (They obviously don't like football matches!).

The Compere managed to provide entertainment which involved everyone and there was one particular gentleman from the other party who danced "the day away" and so enjoyed himself and...I played Bingo! Never done this before so it certainly was a day of new experiences – I might add I didn't win anything but what's new...!!!!

Thank you Alex for the invitation, the fun and for sharing your lady friend with me for the day. And thank you to Jean and to everyone for sharing your day out with me. And...the weather although cold and wet was very kind too because two days earlier it was thick ice and snow.

When I got home I realised it had been one of the most relaxing days I had spent for a long long time. I do hope I shall be invited again...hint, hint!!

*Ann Spelman, Editor*

## Hi-Tech ticket machines

EAST YORKSHIRE has recently placed an order, worth well over £1/3m for enough "Wayfarer III" electronic ticket machines to re-equip all the buses operated by East Yorkshire, Primrose Valley and Scarborough & District, apart from Hedon Road depot where buses already have this type of machine. However, now that the new equipment is delivered, the Hedon Road machines, which are slightly different, will be moved to Scarborough.

The order also includes all the new equipment necessary for depots to operate the new machines which are capable of issuing and accepting the latest magnetic stripe tickets, which in turn will allow the company to offer a wide range of multi-journey tickets, and improve statistical information.

The machines will be similar to those now being introduced by Kingston upon

Hull City Transport, and the move will therefore allow passengers to use multi-journey tickets on buses of either company. This should prove far more attractive and it is hoped that the new flexibility will go a long way towards helping to retain existing passengers and win new ones.

The new machines had arrived by the time this issue appears in print, and all depots should be fully equipped by April.

# **Shearings declares war on Wallace Arnold**

**COMPETITION** between the country's two main coach holiday operators, Shearings and Wallace Arnold, seems to have hotted up recently when Shearings embarked on a major advertising campaign offering to refund twice the difference between its fare and any lower price offered by Wallace Arnold for a similar holiday.

Whilst similar tactics seems to be fairly common amongst high street retailers, it is thought that this is the first time that such a promise has been made in the coach holiday industry.

East Yorkshire Travel general manager Graham Rogers is however, not greatly concerned by the promised price cuts, saying that EYT offers a rather different product to either of the two major companies and is not really in direct competition with either of them.

EYT's main season brochure was on the shelves in February, and once again the company is offering even more departures than in 1994. Although the brochure

publication is much later than many coach tour companies, Graham Rogers again points out that EYT's recent success has been built much more upon late availability advertised in the press with full season brochures playing a much smaller part in the company's marketing strategy.

EYT bookings are already in a very healthy state for 1995, and were given a further boost by the well-established annual Travelfair which took place this year at the Royal Hotel in Hull on Sunday 5th March. Firm bookings worth £126,000 were taken at the event – an increase of around £45,000 over last year.

## **Stagecoach cuts Stockport – Manchester route**

**STAGECOACH** subsidiary Ribble has cut by half the frequency on its prestige route 192 between Stockport and Manchester some 12 months after starting the service in direct competition with Greater Manchester Buses South.

The change should reduce the amount of competition on the main road between Stockport and Manchester city centre, although the effect on Finglands service 192 will not be very great because Finglands buses operate mainly at night.

The trade press reports that the 23 new Stagecoach buses previously operating the route have reduced to 13, and fares are expected to rise from the very low prices with which Stagecoach undercut GMB fares.

Coincidentally, Greater Manchester South is withdrawing its X43 service from Manchester to Burnley which was set up in direct retaliation for the introduction of the 192 route, although both withdrawals are being described by the respective companies as being for purely commercial reasons.

Some of the Stagecoach single-deckers withdrawn from Manchester have ended up working for KHCT in Hull, although it is understood that this is only a temporary arrangement pending the arrival of some new buses for the 'Blue and Whites'.

## **Humberside plans turn to Public Transport**

IT HAS recently been reported that planning policies in Humberside will in future be assessed against three criteria: a slowing down in the growth in journeys; the encouragement of the use of public transport, cycling and walking; and the reduction in the reliance on private vehicles.

The Council said that there is no longer just the need to integrate transport provision, but to begin to redress the balance in favour of modes other than private vehicles.

This is encouraging news and it is hoped that the policy will be continued under the new authorities which are now almost certain to come into place in the Spring of 1996 as a result of the government's decision to abolish the County of Humberside and give Hull unitary status.

## **Marsh Wood meets the Ransbottom family**

There's a town in Yorkshire called Pocklington

And that's where this story's begun

And Mr and Mrs Ransbottom

Went there with young Albert their son

Now a funny old lot were the Ransbottoms

Young Albert and Father and Mum

And Father, well, being from Yorkshire

Was known to be tight as a drum

They'd been to the market that Tuesday

And after a bit of a talk

They decided to jump on a 746

And take themselves off into York

The traffic that day was appalling

With jams to the left and the right

And it seemed to be ages and ages

Before 746 came in sight

Marsh Wood were the driver that morning

And he pulled up to the stand

The Ransbottoms all stood there waiting

Young Albert Wi' chips in his hand

'Ow much will you charge us to York mate?

Said Father to Marsh at the door

Now I don't want you charging too much like

I've been done by bus drivers before

Marsh didn't quite like the suggestion

When Father had put it like that

That bus drivers diddled their punters

And thought to himself "What a prat"

The fare from here to York said Marsh

To tell you I will be quite glad

Two shilling each for you and the wife

And just one and six for the lad.

*To be continued...*

*Watch the next issue of Travel Telegraph for the concluding part of Marsh Wood's encounter with the Ransbottom family!!*

## **Commitments started on a bus!**

A SNIPPET picked up recently from the Pocklington Post newspaper reveals that Commitments rock star Kenneth McCluskey apparently got his first audition through talking to someone on a bus – and the newspaper article was also prompted by the reporter chatting to someone on an EYMS double-deck on Route 746 to York.

By chance the reporter met a young lady from Barmby Moor and it turned out that the Rotherham lass had met Kenneth in her former home town.

# Vintage East Yorkshire

696-699 6696 KH-6699 KH, AEC Bridgemaster, Park Royal Bodywork

THIS BATCH of four vehicles were the first Bridgemasters to be purchased by the company. Introduced February 1960, they did not have inward tapered top decks, but could still pass through Beverley Bar with care. 696/697 were delivered new to Elloughton, 698 to Bridlington and 699 to Driffield – the latter two transferring to Elloughton during May 1961, where all four were allocated until May 1962, when they all moved to Withernsea, staying at that depot until December 1969. Next move, to Anlaby Road apart from, 699 staying at Withernsea until August 1971. Withdrawal came end of May 1974, when all 4 were de-licensed and stored at Driffield. 698 going for scrap in May 1975, 696/697/699 going in February the following year

Marsh Wood, Pocklington



1 696. In Hull Bus Station when new operating the Goole service.



2 697. On Anlaby Road, mingling with a trolley bus near Wheeler Street, operating a South Cave Service.



3 698. On Beverley High Road, being 'dogged' by a trolley bus on route 63.

4 699. Laying over on the 'muck'.

## More Compliments

EYMS Group companies continue to receive a fair share of very welcome letters of praise and it is simply not possible to publish all of them in Travel Telegraph.

However, we try to pick the occasional letter which is perhaps just that little bit different, and we are happy to publish the following letter from Kenneth Turpin of Hull who wrote to the company just before Christmas:

*"Once again I feel the need to write to you in further praise of your EYT Bargain Trips. This time it was a three days away at the London Sights and Shops departing on Friday last, December 9th, returning on the 11th.*

*The value for money aspect was absolutely marvellous and the accommodation, comfort, food and service at the Great Eastern Hotel was absolutely first class.*

*Having requested the name of the coach driver (Adrian Hutchinson), he must come in for a special mention – his driving and timing on arrival at destination points was excellent and I speak for the other 40 or so fellow passengers in praising his affable and good humoured personality. In my lifetime I have travelled in and through London extensively and I thought I knew practically the whole of its landmarks but he amazed me with his intimate knowledge of their location and full description, a first class ambassador for EYT.*

*This was the sixth Bargain Trip undertaken by my wife and self with the intention of many more in 1995. I doubt if Stagecoach will ever come up to your level!*

*If mottoes are anything to go by yours should be "Nulli Secundus"*

## Editors' Note

SORRY for the delay in this edition of Travel Telegraph but from the content of Issue 27 you will see I have been very busy. If you have a story to tell me or a story you would like me to cover all you have to do is let me know and I will be happy to do so.

Did you know Spring is here – the snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils are all out in my garden and the nights are getting lighter so it can't be far away can it although we are forecast for snow!

Happy reading and please keep your stories coming.

*Editor*

## Charity train to Edinburgh

FOLLOWING the success of the special rail trip from Hull to Edinburgh last year, organised by Rail UK in association with "MIND" – the mental health charity with local offices in Hull, the trip was repeated on Saturday 11 March, this time also in support of the National Federation of the Blind.

Once again the trip was a resounding success with a full train of 550 people making the journey from Hull, Brough and Selby over the famous Settle to Carlisle line for about six hours in Edinburgh for shopping or sightseeing.

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The magazine is edited by Ann Spelman, Telephone: Hull 52865. Contributions from staff are always welcome and may be posted direct to Ann Spelman or sent free of charge through the Group's internal mail system addressed to Hilary Fawcett, Secretary to Peter Shipp, Joint Managing Director — at Head Office.

It may not be possible to use all contributions because of space and the need to try and balance past, present and future stories and to provide balanced coverage of all Group companies' activities.